

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

S.F. No. 185

(SENATE AUTHORS: CARLSON, Koenen and Dibble)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/31/2013	128	Introduction and first reading Referred to Transportation and Public Safety
02/21/2013	298a 342	Comm report: To pass as amended Second reading Rule 47, returned to Transportation and Public Safety See SF1270, Sec. 47

A bill for an act

relating to transportation; establishing a transportation ombudsperson; amending
 Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 174.02, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 174.02, is amended by adding a
 subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. **Transportation ombudsperson.** (a) The commissioner shall appoint a
 person to the position of transportation ombudsperson. The transportation ombudsperson
 reports directly to the commissioner. The ombudsperson must be selected without regard to
 political affiliation and must be qualified to perform the duties specified in this subdivision.

(b) Powers and duties of the transportation ombudsperson include, but are not
 limited to:

(1) providing a neutral, independent resource for dispute and issue resolution between
 the department and the general public where another mechanism or forum is not available;

(2) gathering information about decisions, acts, and other matters of the department;

(3) providing information to the general public;

(4) facilitating discussions or arranging mediation when appropriate; and

(5) maintaining and monitoring performance measures for the ombudsperson
 program.

(c) The transportation ombudsperson may not hold another formal position within
 the department. The transportation ombudsperson may not impose a complaint fee.

(d) Amounts that may be spent to pay the costs of the transportation ombudsperson
 program must be specifically appropriated by law and may not be transferred from any

- 2.1 other appropriation. Any excess appropriation cancels at the end of the year to the fund
- 2.2 from which it was appropriated.